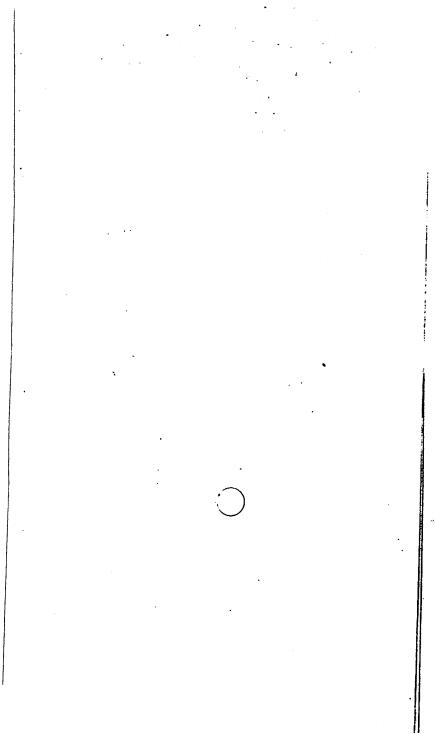
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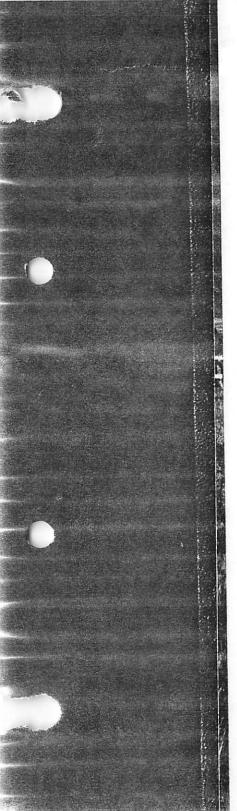
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The best information available about the settlement of the Heber Valley seems to lead to the conclusion that upper Provo Valley, was the very first portion of the state of Utah ever visited by white men.

While our forefathers were struggling for independence along the Atlantic Coast, the Spaniards were busy exploring the interior of the country. The more practical object was to find a route to the Pacific Coast. This was in 1776. They saw a majestic mountain, in its grandeur, girded by a sparkling glacier and drifting white clouds in a matchless blue horizon. The mountain with lofty peaks and lush green foliage, inspired a strange legend of a sleeping Indian maiden.

Several mill hands, also gazed upon the same horizon, as they hiked eastward from a Big Cottonwood sawmill and viewed the mile high valley from the Wasatch Range, in 1857.

Many other groups hearing rumors of a desirable agricultural valley, on the other side of the mountain, explored and looked upon the beautiful handwork of nature and decided it was a good place to locate. However, about this same time, preparations were being made by a group of harassed and freedom loving people, to find peace from violent mobs and persecution, where they could worship and progress in a "restored religion" which they had embraced.

## "This Is The Place"

In 1847, Brigham Young and the first company of Mormon pioneers traced a path across the Great American Desert to the Salt Lake Valley. This path became familiar to thousands of Latter-day Saints who came from all sections of the United States and northern Europe. Most of them had little experience in this type of a colonizing venture, and volumes can be read of the trials and tribulations they encountered. They became the pioneers who have made an important contribution to our present-day life here in Heber Valley.

"We live in an area we largely inherited. Some of the familiar things that surround us are of our own making, but largely they are things our fathers did for us. We are heirs of wonderful treasures from the past. Treasures of work and faith and sacrifice, that we in our day might live better than our fathers. But how few of us open our eyes to see these treasures? What a different place this world would be if our senses were trained to hear the whisperings of the past, and hear how those, now gone, yearned for this day in which we bear sway." (Wasatch County Chapter, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, How Beautiful Upon the Mountains).

Even though trappers and mountainmen gave reports of killing frosts each month of the year, and surprise attacks by Indians, a group left Provo in April, 1859, to meet their challenge in the form of a snow-slide, crossing the road near the south fork of the Provo River. We learn from the diary of John Crook, how they had to make camp there, then pull their wagons apart and carry them piece by piece to the other side, where they reassembled their wagons, organized their provisions, then continued up the canyon, along with their cattle.



Artist's conception of the first campsite in the Heber Valley. About one mile north of Heber.

## **Entering Heber Valley**

Arriving and walking on foot to the proposed site of Heber City, looking north they saw two moving objects, which they supposed to be wild animals, but later found them to be two yoke of cattle and two men already plowing. They decided to make camp with them, and built wickie-ups of willows and grass, large enough to shelter thirty men. Because most of the group had originally come from London, England, and had been converted to the gospel in that area by Heber C. Kimball, they decided to name this spot, Lon-